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OIA-2023-4640

13 March 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@opalanz.com

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 26 February 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

With the Australians rejecting their MRH90 is there any plan to look to acquire any related airframe, parts or equipment that's compatible with our own NH90. This is a good opportunity to utilize their un needed equipment to benefit our NH90 fleet in the longer term. We had 16 Iroquois but now only 8 NH90, is there a benefit to look to enlarge our fleet given recent conflicts highlighting the benefits of logistics.

When selecting the NH90 helicopters to replace the Iroquois fleet in 2005, in-depth analysis was carried out to determine the fleet size. The NH90 is a considerably larger helicopter than the Iroquois and can carry more troops and supplies. Because of this, a fleet strength of eight was deemed sufficient to meet the needs of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF).

No decisions have been made on acquiring Australian NH90 airframes, spare parts or ground support equipment. However, the Ministry of Defence and the NZDF are in communication with the Australian Defence Force to better understand any opportunities that may arise from the impending replacement of the Australian NH90 fleet.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF